



## BACKGROUND

In the Gospel of Mark (1:9-11), we read about the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of God the Father says, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” This moment is important because it shows us how Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and publicly affirmed as the Son of God. It marked the beginning of His mission on earth to teach, heal, and bring God’s love to the world. This connects beautifully to the Sacrament of Confirmation. In Confirmation, we too are sealed with the Holy Spirit in a special way. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that Confirmation “roots us more deeply in the divine filiation” that means we are grounded in the assurance that we are truly God’s beloved children and it “gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith” (CCC 1303). Just as Jesus was empowered by the Spirit at His baptism, we are strengthened by the Spirit in Confirmation to live out our faith with courage, love, and joy. So when we hear the story of Jesus’ baptism, we remember that God also says to each of us: “You are my beloved child. I am with you.”

## INTRODUCTION

These games are designed to help children unpack the story of Jesus’ Baptism. Through them, we explore how Jesus’ baptism is not just a historical event, but a spiritual blueprint for our own journey. Just as Jesus was anointed by the Spirit, we too are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. It is a moment of deep affirmation where we are called, chosen, and sent forth to live out our faith with courage and purpose.

Begin each activity by reading the scripture with the children. Afterwards, take some time to debrief with the children. There are some questions below each activity to get the conversation started.

## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS - MARK 1:9-11

*About that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him like a dove.*

*A voice from heaven said, “You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you.”*





## HIDE AND SEEK FAMILY

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose one person to be the seeker. Children scatter and hide and the seeker looks for them.
2. As children are found, they join hands with the seeker and look for others to join their family. Continue to seek, until everyone is found and holding hands as a family.

### DEBRIEF

Through baptism we are filled with the Spirit – Seeking – the Spirit finds us

- Through baptism the Spirit links us together – Holding hands
- Through baptism we become part of God's family.
- As people who are filled with the Spirit, we seek others to join our family.

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## FOLLOW THE LEADER

### INSTRUCTIONS

Children take turns at being the Leader. Everyone follows the leader around a designated area. Encourage the leaders to go in different directions and to do a variety of actions for the 'community'/'family' to follow.

### DEBRIEF

- At baptism we become members of the Body of Christ and Confirmation and First Holy Communion form us into God's people.
- Jesus trusted John. Trust is important when we follow someone. What other things are important?
- Similarities and differences in us – the people who follow Jesus...
  - Differences may be obvious ie cultural, gender
  - Similarities – lead children to understand that we are all filled with the Spirit, we are all Baptised

